

SR 520 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND HOV PROJECT

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
January 2005 Transportation Commission Meeting

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Reviewed by: David Dye, Urban Corridors Administrator

Approved by: John Conrad, Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Regional Operations

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the project, with a focus on the recent events:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Progress
- Schedule Update
- Construction Methods / Temporary Bridges

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Keep the Commission informed about progress on the SR 520 project. No specific action by the Commission is requested

BACKGROUND:

- In Early 2003, the full environmental analysis and development of the Environmental Impact Statement was initiated. The release of the Draft EIS is scheduled for June 2005.
- As an outcome of the Spring 2004 Accelerated Construction Technology Transfer (ACTT) Workshop the project began an effort to examine how the project would be constructed within the confines of the corridor, with the daily traffic demands and opportunities to reduce the construction time.

DISCUSSION:

The SR 520 Draft EIS of the 4 and 6-lane alternatives is on schedule for release at the end of June 2005. Twenty-two Draft EIS Discipline Reports and Appendices are nearly complete. Writing of the Pre-DEIS is underway. All of the Discipline Reports and the Draft EIS are written in the "Reader Friendly" format including the use of many graphics, charts, and visual simulations. The current schedule for completion of the EIS process is to complete the Final EIS by summer of 2006 and have a Record of Decision by the end of that year. Planning for the advancement of the EIS in the 05-07 biennium has started and will continue through this coming spring.

The ACTT conference resulted in several recommendations to expedite construction. The project has made the recommendation for the construction of a temporary traffic bridge to allow for a single phase of construction for the construction of the mile long west approach structure through the Arboretum. Earlier construction methods provided for temporary

construction trestles and two phases construction. This new construction method provides greater safety for construction crews and the public, reduces the overall construction time, the number of in-water work periods and schedule risk. We are in the process of discussing this construction method with the City of Seattle and the permitting agencies.

The project is anticipating selecting a preferred alternative in the summer of 2005. With the selection, the project could begin a full design effort for a Phase 1 project (floating bridge and approaches) of the preferred alternative. The degree of advancement of design is contingent on the level of funding in the 05/07 biennium. Current nickel funds would result in slowed design progress and a significant delay to start of construction.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation is necessary.

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